



## SPAIN

### Memoranda of Understanding and Plans of Cooperation

A Plan for Joint Activities in Education was signed in 2001 between the United States Department of Education and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports (MECD) of Spain. Twenty-six Memoranda of Understanding have been signed between the MECD and a variety of Departments of Education at the state level. In addition, other cooperation agreements have been signed with school districts, boards of education and other educational agencies throughout the United States. The goal of all these agreements is to foster cooperation in educational matters between Spain and its autonomous regions and the United States and its individual states.

### Programs Covered by the Memoranda of Understanding

The type, characteristics and reach of the programs covered by these Memoranda of Understanding vary according to the interests and needs of the signatories. Nonetheless, in each case a system of the following five basic programs provides a framework that serves as a point of reference:

1. Visiting Teachers Program – Teachers from Spain who specialize in the teaching of Spanish and have a good command of English typically work for one to three years in U.S. schools. The participating school districts select the teachers in Spain in collaboration with the MECD.
2. Summer courses for U.S. teachers of Spanish – Through this program, American teachers update their training in Spanish at Spanish universities with departments dedicated to the teaching of Spanish language and literature. Over 600 participants have attended these courses in the summer of 2002.
3. Language and Culture Assistants – This program is aimed at specialists in English who have typically not yet begun their teaching careers and for whom living for a year in the U.S. is essential to their professional training. Under the direction of the regular teachers, participants act as conversation assistants in U.S. schools. The MECD provides the assistant's salary and medical coverage and the school provides lodging and transportation.
4. International Spanish Academies in U.S. institutions – An International Spanish Academy can be a school (elementary, middle or high school) or one section within a school that initiates or is already implementing a quality educational bilingual program in English and Spanish. The Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain will provide the International Spanish Academy with the following resources and programs:
  - Teacher training activities and pedagogical resources.
  - Participation in the programs sponsored by Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain in the United States.
  - International Spanish Academy Studies Diploma for students, issued by the Embassy of Spain's Education Office.
  - Access to double academic accreditation through the Embassy of Spain's Education Office.
5. Post-to-Post Exchanges – Through this program, teachers from Spain and the United States exchange their position for one school year. It is, like the other program, a two-way program

benefiting both parties at a very low cost and is an attractive program for both Spanish and U.S. teachers.

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